

Native Plant Materials Development Program: Twelve Years and Growing

Peggy Olwell
Bureau of Land Management
Plant Conservation Program Lead



Numbers Game

- 60% and 2%
- < 2%
- 0
- 25 years and 60 years



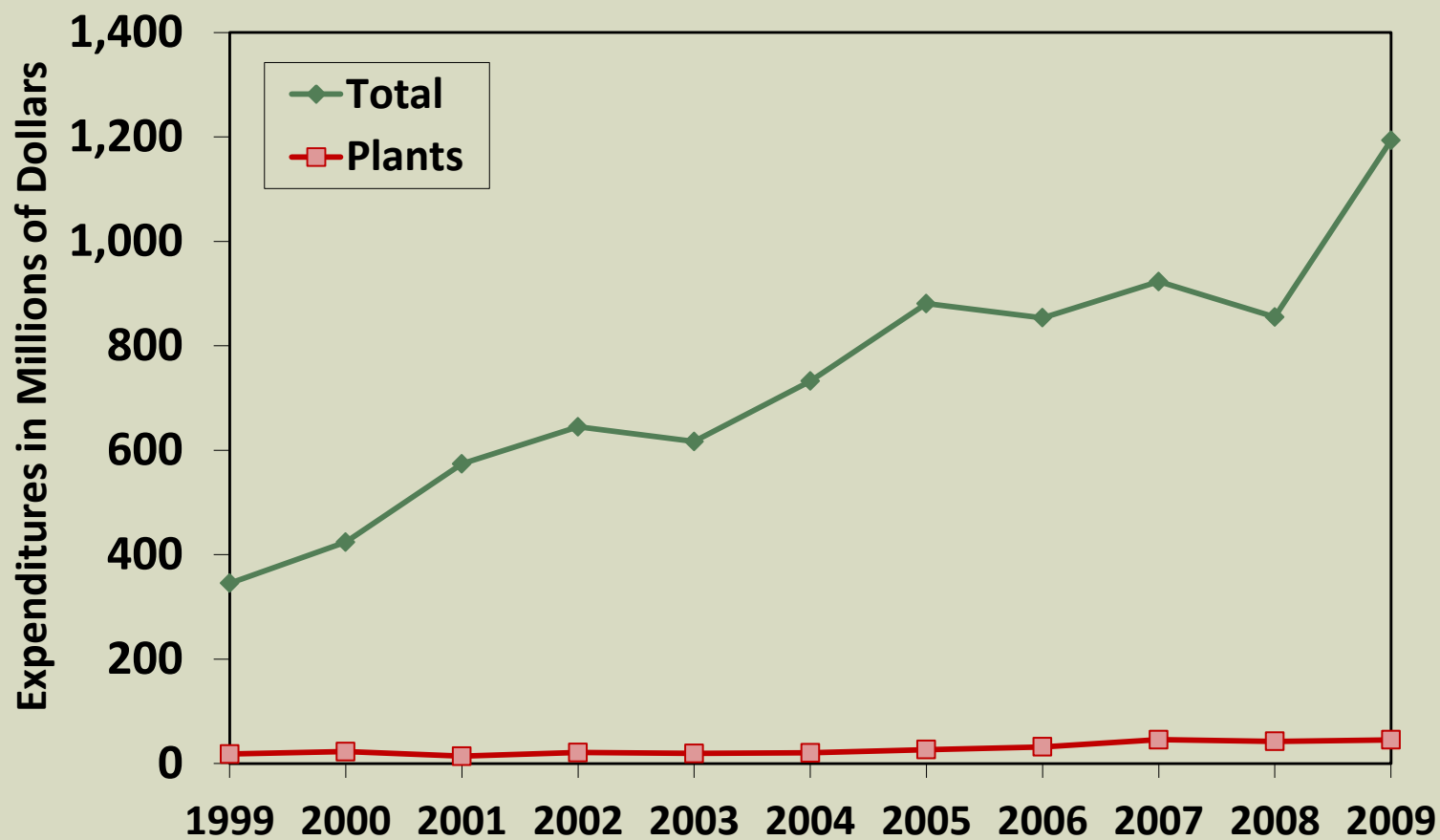
Numbers Game

- 60%: Percent of species that are **plants protected by Endangered Species Act (ESA)**
- 2%: Percent of **Federal funds going to plants that are listed under ESA**
- < 2%: Percent of **biological research dollars spent on plant research**
- 0: Number of **Federal land managing agencies with designated plant program funding**
- 25 and 60!



Federal T&E Recovery Expenditures Reported to FWS

(not including land acquisitions)



Science Editorial

November 19, 2010

- Plants are essential to the survival of our planet – to its ecology, biodiversity, and climate.
- Vigorous high-quality scientific research in the plant sciences will be crucial for the world's future.
- Yet basic plant science research has struggled to take root in the U.S. ... Federal support for fundamental plant science research has been less than 2%.
- The amount awarded on a competitive basis to academic and research institutions constitutes only about 2% of extramural spending for life sciences research (\$382 million out of \$17 billion in 2005).



Colorado Plateau Native Plant Program Meeting

- BLM Overview
- BLM Plant Conservation Program
- National Seed Coordinator Position
- Native Plant Materials Development Program
- Budget 2012
- Internal BLM Seed Use Survey
- Priorities for FY 2012



BLM Overview

- What is driving our conservation program:
 - Sage-Grouse
 - Climate Change
 - BLM Initiatives
 - Rapid Ecoregional Assessments
 - Healthy Landscapes
 - Assessments, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM)
 - BLM Reorganization



BLM Plant Conservation Program

- Peggy Olwell (Program Lead)
- Megan Haidet (Seeds of Success)
- Olivia Kwong (Plant Conservation Alliance)
- Vacant (Rare Plant Botanist)
- Paul Krabacher (National Seed Coordinator)*

*ID State Office



National Seed Coordinator

- Supervise Management and Operations of BLM Regional Seed Warehouses (Boise, ID and Ely, NV)
- Coordinate with State Seed Warehouses (Ephraim, UT and Delta, CO)
- Coordinate the 3-4 Consolidated Seed Buys/Year
- Coordinate work with national BLM Plant Conservation Program Lead and ES& R Program Lead
- Work with Growers and Seed Industry



National Native Plant Materials Development Program Annual Funding (12 years)

FY2001 - \$5.3 m

FY2007 - \$4.6 m

FY2002 - \$4.7 m

FY2008 - \$4.6 m

FY2003 - \$2.3 m

FY2009 - \$5.8 m

FY2004 - \$4.6 m

FY2010 - \$8.1 m

FY2005 - \$4.6 m

FY2011 - \$7.6 m

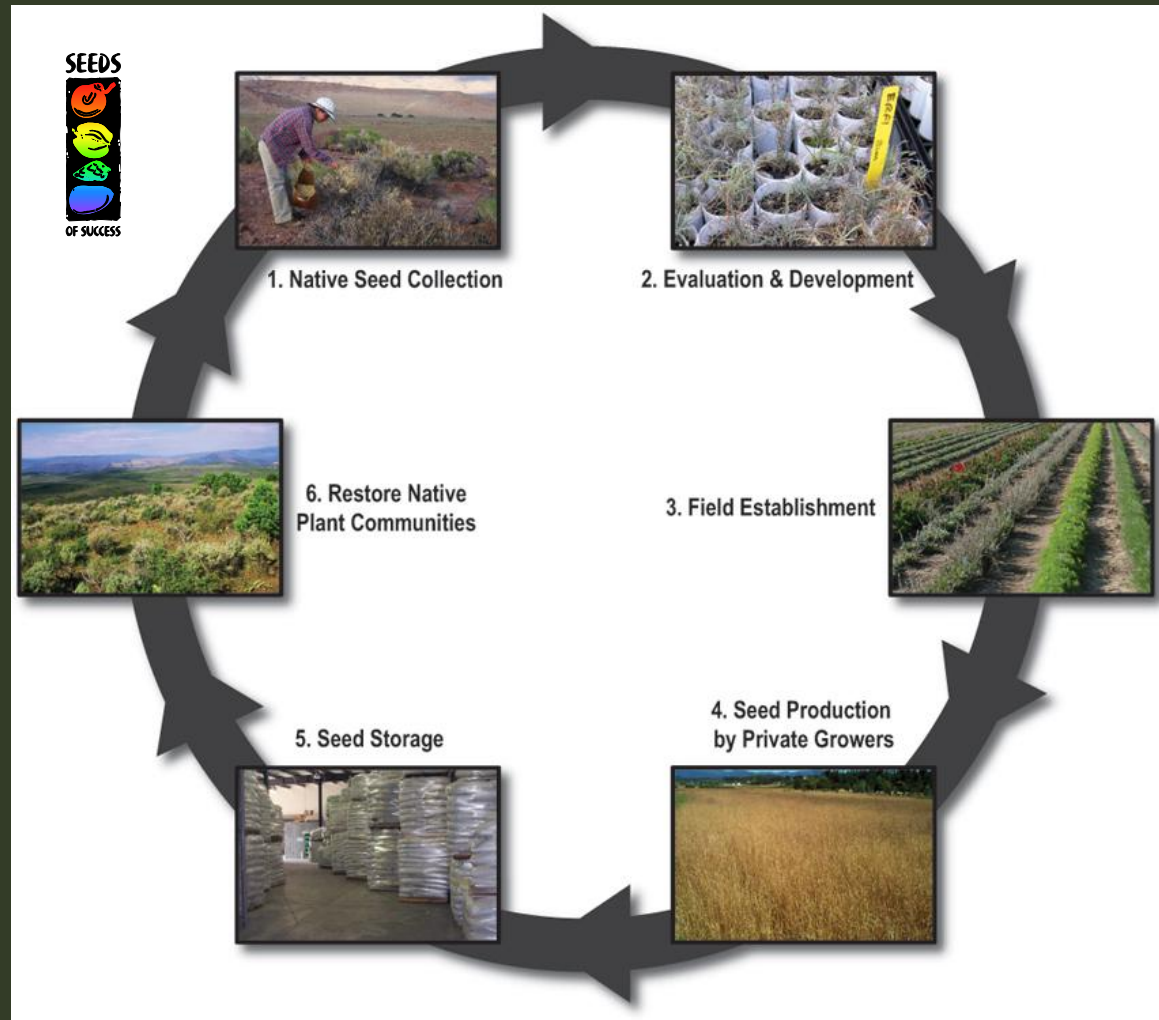
FY2006 - \$4.4 m

FY2012 - \$8.1 m

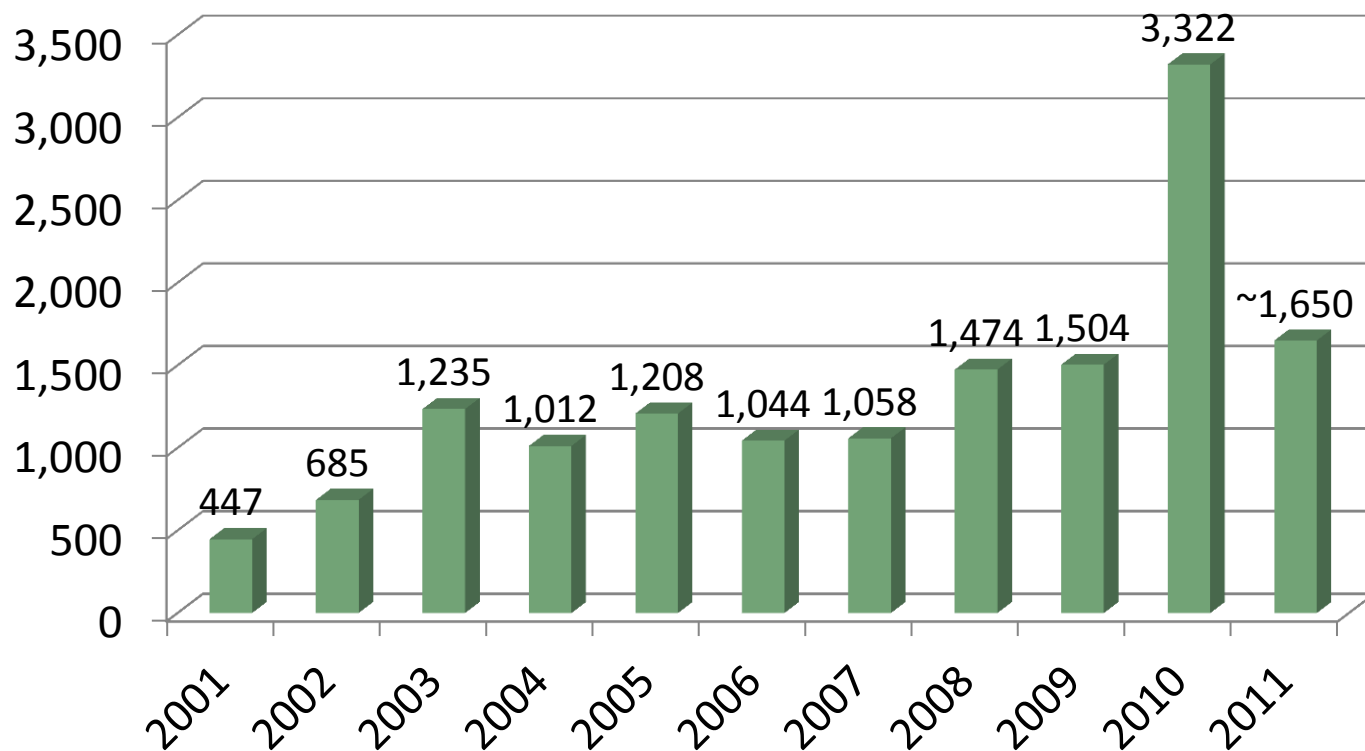
2001-2012 Total: \$64.7 million



Native Plant Materials Development Process

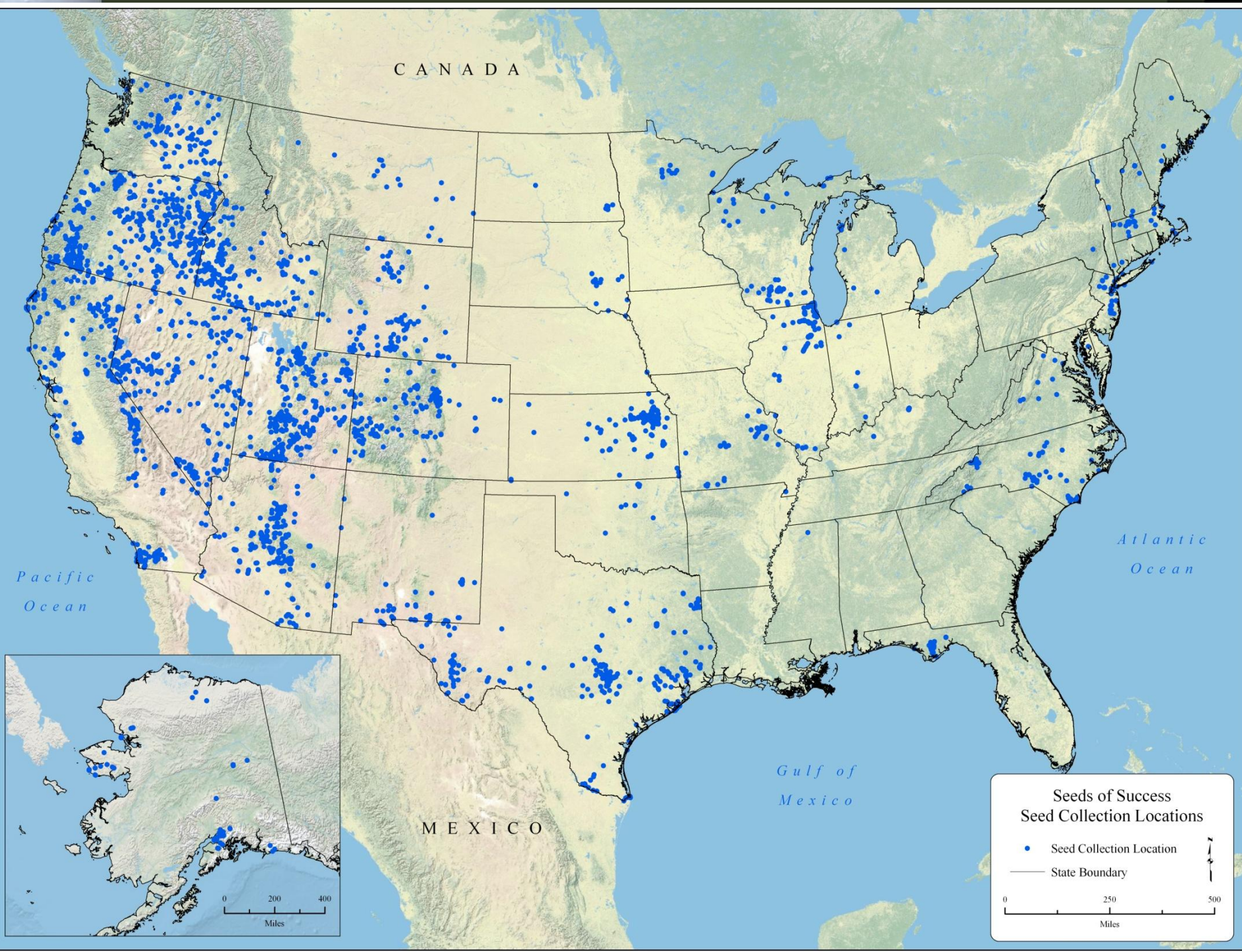


Annual Seed Collection Totals



- Seed Collections: nearly 13,000
- Taxa Represented: 4,200





Budget 2012

- BLM Plant Conservation Program
 - I. Native Plant Materials Development
 - \$4.6 m Wildlife Subactivity
 - \$3.0 m Climate Change Sub-activity
 - \$250 k Ely O&M (Multiple Sub-activities)
 - \$220 k Youth Initiative (CLM Interns)
 - II. Sensitive & Rare Plants
 - \$5.5 m T&E Sub-activity
- \$8.07 million annually**



BLM Seed Use Survey IM

- Internal Survey developed
Survey going online 4- 1-12
- Instructional Memorandum (IM) drafted
IM - surname process: 3- 8-12
IM to Field Offices: 3-31-12
IM due date: 4-20-12
- Analysis and Report 5-20-12



NPMDP Program 2012 Priorities

- Work with OIG on Climate Change Funding Audit
- Conduct BLM Seed Use Survey
- Develop IM for PCP & ESR Coordination on ESR Plans
- Establish Interagency NPMDP Board
- NPMDP Progress Report (2001-2011)
- Plan the 2nd National Native Seed Conference
- Work with National Seed Coordinator to strengthen BLM relationship with Seed Industry
- Support & Strengthen Great Basin, Colorado Plateau, Pacific Northwest & California Eco-regional Native Plant Materials Programs
- Increase partnerships in Desert Southwest & Establish Eco-regional Native Plant Materials Program for Mojave Desert
- Update Plant Conservation Alliance Strategy and move PCA website (including SOS website) to BLM server



What does this mean for Colorado Plateau Native Plant Program?



Conservation & Land Management Internship Program Blog

- At the end of my internship, these are only some of the things that I've come to recognize while working for this federal agency. **Managing the public lands in the western states is an enormous job**, and the people who are a part of that effort make up a vast network of beliefs, perhaps not always as passionate as my mentor's or even aligned with her own. Somehow, **this complex assembly of beliefs becomes manifested in individual projects, carried out in the field by people like me, and fits together into an increasingly more coherent picture as we look from project, to field office, to district, state, and eventually the nation.** The fact that work conducted on the ground can bridge the gap to the seemingly distant and detached goals of the BLM as a whole is unbelievable. More than that, **it is incredible that I have been a part of this system and that I've met some of the admirable people who, even at our lonely outpost in this small piece of the big picture, believe wholly in their significance in the grand scheme.**



Conservation & Land Management Internship Program Blog

This opportunity has opened my eyes to the significance of land conservation efforts. I was given the chance to explore places that are completely foreign to me, see new wildlife, and assist in a variety of projects that gave me a wealth of unforgettable experiences. At times this seemed like a job that was too enjoyable to accomplish anything meaningful. At other times I would zoom out on a map to see how small my field office was in comparison to the entirety of the western states and the task of protecting all of this land seemed daunting. Admittedly, government work can appear sluggish, held back by its demand for extensive procedure, systematics, and red tape. But what I've learned is that it is sustained by individuals on the ground, scattered over the vastness of these public lands, who care deeply for the public land and its perpetuity. This is a comforting thought, and I cannot express my full appreciation for getting a chance to take part in the effort.

- by coryelowe on November 15, 2011



Challenge to you:

- Share the importance of native plants
 - Educate the public
 - Educate your agency/organization
- Mentor the next generation now!

For more information:

Peggy Olwell

polwell@blm.gov

202-912-7273

